

Appl. No. 10/617,575  
Amdt. Dated June 2, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of March 2, 2004

### **REMARKS**

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 6 and 9.

#### ***Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103***

Claims 1-5, 7-8 and 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohsumi (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,236) in view of Pelosa (U.S. Patent No. 5,362,260).

Regarding claim 1, a cable assembly defined therein comprises a plurality of contacts received in corresponding cavities of an insulating housing. Each contact comprises an intermediate portion, a central contact beam extending from one end of the intermediate portion, a pair of side contact beams extending from two opposite sides of the intermediate portion and a tail portion extending from an opposite end of the intermediate portion and terminated to corresponding cables. *The central contact beam is deflectable relative to the intermediate portion along a first direction while each of the side contact beams is deflectable relative to the intermediate portion along a second direction different from the first direction.*

Referring to FIG. 1 of Ohsumi, it discloses a cable assembly comprising a contact (B) received in a corresponding cavity (1) of an insulating housing (A). The contact includes an intermediate portion (5), a folded elastic connecting strip (8) extending from one end of the intermediate portion and a tail portion (B2) extending from an opposite end of the intermediate portion and terminated to a cable (W). The connecting strip (8) is deflectable relative to the intermediate portion along a first/up-to-down direction.

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Referring to FIGS. 1-6 of Pelosa, there disclosed a terminal (16) received in a cavity (14) of an insulating housing (12). As disclosed in column 3, lines 34-55 of the specification of Pelosa, the terminal includes a rectangular-shaped mating portion (20) defined by bottom wall means (32), opposite side wall means (34) and top wall means (36). A pair of latch arms (40) is provided on the mating portion with opposite ends thereof connecting with front and rear flexible tabs (44) and (46). The latch arms are capable of being flexed or biased inwardly to engage a shoulder (52) of the housing for holding the terminal in the cavity of the housing. Examiner **incorrectly** treats the latch arms (40) as the so-called side contact beams, while in the instant invention the side contact beams are used to contact with a mating contact rather than holding the contact in the housing. Although the bottom wall means (32) and the top wall means (36) are bent inwardly **for providing resilient engagement of the mating portion with a male terminal**, the top/bottom wall means (36, 32) is deflectable relative to the intermediate portion in said first/up-to-down direction, while in the instant invention the side contact beams is deflectable relative to the intermediate portion in a second/lateral direction, which is **different from** the first direction.

Even if it is obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the same invention was made to modify the assembly of Ohsumi by providing a part of the mating portion (20) of the contact disclosed in Pelosa, the combination thereof forms a modified contact having a central contact beam (8) and two top wall means or resilient arms (36). The central contact beam (8) and the resilient arms (36) both are deflectable relative to the intermediate portion in the first/up-to-down direction, while in the instant invention the central contact beam is deflectable relative to the intermediate portion in the first direction and the side contact beams are deflectable relative to the intermediate portion in the second direction ***different from*** the first

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direction. At the same time, from the disclosure of Ohsumi and Pelozza, in order to perform a successful/effective engagement of the modified contact and the mating contact, the central contact beam (8) must be located below the resilient arms (36). Further, in order to achieve sufficient resiliency of the central contact beam, the central contact beam should be spaced from the intermediate portion for a certain distance in the first direction, the size of the modified contact is thus inevitably increased.

Therefore, the modified contact is obviously different from the contact defined in claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable over Ohsumi in view of Pelozza.

Claims 2-5, 7-8 and 10 are also patentable since they depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly.


Each of the independent claims 12 and 16 comprises the limitation that "...the central contact beam being deflectable relative to the intermediate portion along a first direction, ...a pair of side contact beams being deflectable relative to the intermediate portion along a second direction different from the first direction..." which is also the limitation of claim 1, therefore, for the similar reasons regarding claim 1, claims 12 and 16 are also patentable over Ohsumi in view of Pelozza.

Claims 13-15 and 18 are also patentable since they respectively depend from claims 12 and 16, either directly or indirectly.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

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